

## #4 Printing Press

Importance in a Nutshell: Though China had created movable type long before, the printing press revolutionized the world making them easier to make and cheaper. With literacy, the ability to spread ideas increased. The printing press made the Reformation and the Scientific Revolution possible with this spread of ideas.

Who?

- The printing press was developed by Johannes Gutenberg, a goldsmith
- This invention was based the work of the Chinese; Bi Sheng created movable clay type in 1041
- Gutenberg was partnered with Andreas Dritzehn, a gem-cutter, and Andreas Heillman, the owner of a paper mill

Where?

- The printing press was created in Germany

When?

- Gutenberg finished his first printing press in 1440, starting in 1436.

Why Do I Care?

1. The printing press changed availability of print
  - The printing press made it easy to produce mass amounts of books, fast
  - It was cheaper to produce books, so books were cheaper making availability of books to society greater
  - Though movable type traveled from China to Europe, the printing press was the first invention of printing to gain mass popularity
  - With greater production of print, news and books were in greater circulation
2. The printing press increased literacy
  - Books were now cheap and in abundance
  - People learned to read, even if they were from the lower classes
3. The printing press exposed new ideas to society
  - People were exposed to more ideas with more print
  - The printing press was also a factor in establishing the scientific community
  - It allowed scientists to share their work easily
  - This contributed to the Scientific Revolution
  - The ideas of the Reformation would not have been as widely spread if there was no printing press